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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
CLUTTON

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE



Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Senior Public Health Inspector

For the Year 1959.



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THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1959

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1959.

I must apologise for the delay in submitting it, but plead that for the months March to August I had been ill.

I am glad to report that during the past year the health of your District has been good. We have again had no epidemic of serious Infectious Disease.

-- The Birth Rate has dropped a little.

The Death Rate has also dropped but only slightly. The detailed figures in my Report, as also in that of the Senior Public Health Inspector, will tell you the actual amounts. The greatest cause of death remains as before, Heart Disease and diseases of the circulatory system.

Last year I mentioned a local nuisance - flies at Bishop Sutton!!! I am glad to say I have not heard much about it this year although there have been some troublesome patches.

The Paulton Sewerage Scheme was well towards completion at the end of the year and should prove extremely beneficial to that Parish. The Chew Magna/Bishop Sutton Scheme is moving slowly but, we hope, surely towards the actual starting of the work. There are a great many parishes also in need of sewerage - some more than others - but it is difficult to assess the priority of need. They can only be dealt with a few at a time.

Details of Figures of Vital Statistics for the year are appended.

SECTION A

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

R. V. Brew, M.B., B.S., Medical Officer of Health (Part Time)

F. C. Powell, Senior Public Health Inspector (Full Time)

W. Kerley, Additional Public Health Inspector (Full Time)

S. Crowle, Additional Public Health Inspector (Full Time)

COMMITTEES CONCERNED WITH MATTERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH:

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

HOUSING COMMITTEE

HOUSE LETTING COMMITTEE

SECTION B

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	<u>Notifications Rec'd during the year</u>	<u>Deaths from same</u>
Measles	216	-
Scarlet Fever	5	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	-
Whooping Cough	19	-
Pneumonia Primary	5}	14
Pneumonia Influenzal	10)	
Erysipelas	7	-
Food Poisoning	4	-
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	7	1
Tuberculosis (Non Respiratory)	-	-
 Totals	 277	 15

Since there were 15 cases of Pneumonia and 14 deaths it would seem that there is some laxity in the notification of the disease. I can hardly believe that only one case survived!!! Especially in these days of Antibiotics, Pencillin, Etc. There is a drop of 86 in the number of cases notified due to less Whooping Cough and slightly less Measles.

		Place in Table of Rural Districts
Vaccination in the Year to 31st December, 1959=	69	11th
Revaccination in the Year to 31st December, 1959	= 6	
Whooping Cough Immunization to 31st December, 1959	= 151	9th
<u>Poliomyelitis (Vaccination)</u>		
Young Persons (1933 to 1942)	= 822	
Children (1943 to 1959)	= 2049	5th
Expectant Mothers	= 97	
Doctors and Families	= 2	
Number of Persons of All Groups who received 3rd Reinforcing Dose	= 2315	

A supply of Vaccine (Chiefly Salk) has been made available to General Practitioners on request, and a good progress has been made during the year with the protection of young children, expectant Mothers and certain selected groups of persons.

The course is composed of two injections of Vaccine at three weekly intervals, followed seven months later by a third or bolstering dose.

I have no figures of the number so far completed. The Scheme is under the Control of the County Medical Officer of Health, who supplies the vaccine to General Practitioners in batches on request. The Vaccine has to be kept in a Refrigerator. The County School Medical Officers have also been vaccinating children at the Schools. The parents have the choice of where they want their children vaccinated, either by the General Practitioner or the School Doctor.

Application need no longer be made to Taunton but direct to the Patient's own Docotr. It involves a certain amount of form filling, but that appears to be inevitable in these days.

You have heard me say many times that too little interest is taken in the availability today of Preventive Medicine in the form of Injections (All Free) against some of the most deadly infectious diseases. Notably Diphtheria, Poliomyelitis and Small Pox. Some of the figures given are an indication of this.

In the case of Vaccination against Small Pox; 248 babies were born in 1959 and at least Three quarters of them could and should have been vaccinated within the year - in fact only 69 Primary Vaccinations were done which is just over One quarter.

Whooping Cough, with or without Tetanus combined, were little better than half.

Poliomyelitis Injections have been better taken up but I fancy the enthusiasm is now dying out.

When will the public realise that without these Injections we may any day revert to the days of Epidemics of any or all of these Killer Diseases!!!

SECTION C

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT 1946

LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES UNDER PART III

CARE OF EXPECTANT MOTHERS

AND NURSING MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Is controlled by the County Council, the work is done through the patient's own Docotr and the District Nurse, Antenatal work is carried out by them or at ante-natal clinics generally situated in the local available hospitals. Patients are encouraged to report to one or both in the early months, in order that these preliminary examinations can be executed and conducted at regular intervals.

Patients can have their babies either at home or in a hospital, in the former case being attended by their own nurse and doctor. They remain under their care for six weeks, or more if needed.

In many areas there are Welfare Clinics to continue the health supervision of the child until it is five years of age and starts school. In addition, the mother and child are visited at intervals by their District Nurse who can summon the Doctor when needed. The Scheme works extremely well and there has been no need for modifications since its inception in 1948.

HEALTH VISITING is in the hands of the County Council and is done by Nurses on the County Staff. They appear to visit all cases of Tuberculosis and cases of bad housing conditions with or without over-crowding. The result is frequently a letter to your Medical Officer of Health demanding a Council House for the householder.

HOME NURSING SERVICE - conducted by the District Nurses. No special staff in this area.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNIZATION are carried out by the General Practitioners under a scheme supervised by the County Council. Children up to 5 years of age can be Immunized against Diphtheria by their own Doctor. This involves two injections at intervals of 4 weeks of A.P.T. supplied by the County Authority. From 5 to 14 years whilst the child is at school a further bolstering dose is given by the County School Medical Officer when visiting the School.

The Service has almost eliminated Diphtheria from the List of Infectious Diseases. I cannot remember when I last saw a case and the figures for the whole Country are a magnificent testimony to the efficiency of "Preventive Medicine".

VACCINATION is available to all persons of all ages by their own Doctor under a County Council Scheme. Payment for both services to the Doctor is by the Somerset County Council.

I regret to say that in my experience Vaccination is not used as thoroughly as it should be.

AMBULANCE SERVICE including the provision of free transport for those unable to travel by public transport. The service is excellent and a great boon to the sick and injured. The Staffs are unfailingly prompt and helpful and a special word of thanks is due to them for the excellent work they do and the way they do it.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE. In this District it is run by the W.V.S. It is of great assistance to the sick and aged sick. Unfortunately the supply of Helps is not large; I wish it could be augmented, for the work they do is badly needed and greatly appreciated.

INSTITUTIONAL ACCOMMODATION FOR THE AGED SICK. I am glad to report that during the past year the conditions appear to have improved. I personally have had better luck in obtaining admission for my own cases. I know of no additional accommodation being available and I wonder if another year of more illness will resuscitate the bed shortage once again.

SECTION D

WATER SUPPLY

During 1959 was in short supply due to the very dry summer.

The Pitt Farm Springs have not been very satisfactory as to quality due to pollution at source from Farm Animals. A great deal of attention has been given to them and the purity watched very carefully.

SEWERAGE There has been some disappointment in Chew Stoke since they have not been included in the present scheme. They certainly need a sewerage scheme badly and it is to be hoped that their turn will not be long delayed.

SECTION E

HOUSING

For full details of the work in this connection I refer you to the report of your Inspector.

There would appear to be still a demand for more Council Houses. No sooner is there a rumour that one is to be vacated than I become inundated with letters and personal visits from persons thinking that they should be immediately granted the tenancy. I make no promise but I do submit all letters to your Clerk for filing, and invariably advise a visit to All the District Councillors of the Parish concerned. I find the District Councillors seem to have hit on the same idea and refer the people to ME!!!

Your Inspectors have put in a lot of work on Slum Clearance and with them I have visited a number of derelict or near derelict properties before making Representations to your Council for Closure Notices to be made etc. It is an extremely difficult problem but your District still contains a lot of houses which should and could be dealt with under this heading.

SECTION F

FOOD POISONING

4 cases were notified during the year. It was of the Salmonella type and its origin could not be traced.

SECTION G

MILK

One of the major industries of the Clutton R.D.C. There has been a fall in the total National production but I should doubt if this applies to our area. Somerset is now a Clean County which means that all known Tuberculosis Cattle have been eradicated and all milk is now from T.T. Attested Cattle. All milk offered for public sale must now be either, T.T.Pasteurised or Sterilized.

SECTION H

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION

Your Inspectors have again dealt with their duties in this connection in an efficient manner and very few carcases remained uninspected. The control of slaughtering hours would eliminate this small number entirely.

From your Inspector's Report you will notice that a considerable amount of work has been put in in advising the slaughterhouse occupiers of what works will be necessary to their premises to enable them to comply with new legislation.

A number of problems in this connection remain to be overcome, but with the co-operation of all concerned I think that the ultimate standard of slaughterhouses and meat inspection in the area will be extremely good.

SECTION I

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

OF THE DISTRICT

Area in acres: 43,258

Registrar General's estimate of resident population: 18,090

Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books: 5,711

Rateable Value and sum represented by a Penny Rate £167,099
and £652 respectively.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

FOR THE YEAR

Estimated Mid Year Population 18,090

Comparability Factors: Births 1.04%
Deaths .94%

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	135	109	244
Illegitimate	2	2	4
Total	137	111	248

Birth Rate per 1,000 population = 13.70%

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	5	5	10
Total	5	5	10

Rate of Still Births per 1,000 Live and Still Births = 3.88%

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	3	5
Total	2	3	5

Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births = 20.16

<u>Diseases</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	3	3	6
Malignant Neoplasm of Lungs	5	-	5
Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	-	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus	-	5	5
Other Malignant Neoplasms	10	6	16
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	14	17	31
Coronary Disease and Angina	24	16	40
Hypertension with Heart Disease	3	-	3
Other Heart Diseases	10	23	33
Other Circulatory Diseases	4	4	8
Influenza	1	-	1
Pneumonia	4	10	14
Bronchitis	6	1	7
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	1	3
Ulcars of Stomach & Duodenum	3	-	3
Pregnancy Childbirth Abortion	-	1	1
Congenital Malformations	1	3	4
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	9	9	18
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	1	3
All Other Accidents	6	3	9
Suicide	1	-	1
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 109	<hr/> 106	<hr/> 215
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Death Rate per 1,000 Population is 11.88%

I would like to say that in my opinion you now have a most excellent Health Staff adequately housed in good and convenient offices. They are right on top of their job and everything seems to work smoothly. They take a deal of care and exercise a lot of tact in their dealings with the public, and I know that most of our residents speak highly of their kindness and attention. I am grateful to them all for their kindness and help to myself.

In addition may I add the thanks of us all to your Clerk, Mr. Burdge, who is always approachable and helpful to us when we are in doubt.

I beg to remain,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

RICHARD V. BREW, M.B., B.S.,

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1959

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my third Annual Report and Summary of the Sanitary Conditions of the area.

The work carried out in the Health Department during the year ended 31st December, 1959, is detailed under the various subject headings which follow:-

WATER SUPPLY

(1) General Position

1959 was the last full year during which the Council retained a water undertaking. It was particularly notable for three things (1) the completion of the Mendip Mains Distribution Scheme (2) the commencement and completion of the Clutton/Northend to Norton/Radstock Trunk Main and (3) a prolonged and severe drought.

The drought mentioned in (3) above was of such severity that the Townsend Springs at East Harptree recorded their lowest flows since records were commenced in 1937, and by mid June the Springs at Pitts Farm had ceased to be of any practical value. Nevertheless the Western Parishes Scheme fed from Pitts Farm Reservoir augmented by a tapping from the West Gloucester Main at Hursley Hill and by a supply from the overland emergency main from the Bristol Water Company's Sherborne Springs met all commitments with the exception that there were local shortages in the high points at Nempnett and on occasion at Chew Magna. The position in regard to the Eastern Parishes Scheme fed by the bulk supply from the Downside Abbey Water Company was far worse and from June to October cuts of from 1 - 18 hours per day were made in that Company's bulk supply to this Authority. The maximum use was made of two three inch tappings from the Bath Corporation's Trunk main at Featherbed Lane and Northend, Clutton, but this was insufficient to enable the supply to be kept going and it was inevitable that some parishes were without water in the mains for considerable periods during the day. However, by the use of various emergency means including the setting up of tanks at strategic points no parish was without water for drinking purposes at some time during each day. Fortunately as the water shortage became more severe from existing supplies, so progress on the trunk main increased and with the ready co-operation of the contractors and the Bristol Waterworks Company sections of the new trunk main were brought into use as soon as completed, so that by the end of October all commitments were being met in the Eastern Parishes.

The Mendip Mains Distribution Scheme had been completed by about mid June. Tappings to the new mains were rushed forward and no doubt this Scheme saved the Mendips area serious difficulties during that period.

Consumption as in previous years showed a steady increase and an average of 754,000 gallons per day were fed into the Distribution Mains. Your pumping station and other equipment were regularly maintained during the year and no major breakdowns occurred although the two Ruston & Hornsby Engines at Townsend showed signs that major overhauls were becoming due.

Statistical information for the year is as follows:-

(2) Mains Extension Completed

- 6", 4" and 3" Diameter - Approximately 11 miles Mendip Mains Distribution Scheme.
- 14", 12" and 9" Diameter - 4½ miles Clutton/Northend to Norton/Radstock Trunk Main.
- 3" Diameter - 130 yards Stanton Drew Housing Site.
- 190 yards Rectory Lane, Compton Martin Extention.
- 180 yards The Wrangle, Compton Martin Extension.
- 1½" Diameter - 130 yards Back Lane, Bishop Sutton Extension.
- 1" Diameter - 544 yards, The Wrangle, Compton Martin Extension.

(3) Distribution and Maintenance

New Domestic Tappings	-	60
New Metered Supplied	-	62
Wells Closed or Abandoned	-	10
Private Supply Abandoned (Serving six houses)	-	1
Burst Mains	-	15
Services Renewed	-	106
Meters Changed	-	43
Leaks Located and/or Repaired	-	533

(4) Rainfall (As recorded at Townsend Pumping Station)

The rainfall for the year, as recorded at Townsend Pumping Station, East Harptree, was 38.58 ins. (43.63 inches in 1958).

(5) Water Sampling

Sampling details for the year are as follows:-

SOURCE	Raw Water				Treated after going into supply			
	Bacteriological		Chemical		Bacteriological		Chemical	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Main Supplies	-	-	-	-	12	1	2	-
Spring Supplies	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Well Supplies	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	-

The statistical information regarding the supply of mains water throughout the district is as follows:-

Population of Statutory Area	18,090
Population supplied into houses	16,333
Population supplied by stand-pipes	687
Total Population directly supplied	17,020
Population without piped supplies	1,070

PARISH	Pop. 1959	Population supplied		
		into houses	by standpipes	Total
Cameley	630	620	11	631
Chelwood	134	131	-	131
Chew Magna	1,014	893	-	893
Chew Stoke	735	702	-	702
Chilcompton	1,478	1,368	58	1,426
Clutton	1,121	1,090	47	1,137
Compton Martin	481	371	6	377
East Harptree	580	495	-	495
Farmborough	788	677	98	775
Farrington Gurney	700	681	18	699
High Littleton	1,356	1,328	43	1,371
Hinton Blewett	168	146	-	146
Litton	202	138	-	138
Nempnett	191	146	-	146
Norton Malreward	228	221	-	221
Paulton	3,190	2,899	165	3,064
Publow	866	819	-	819
Stanton Drew	559	467	21	488
Ston Easton	473	452	12	464
Stowey Sutton	751	746	14	760
Timsbury	1,695	1,461	194	1,655
Ubley	313	225	-	225
West Harptree	437	257	-	257
Totals	18,090	16,333	687	17,020

AVERAGE CONSUMPTION 1959

Water purchased from Downside Abbey	281,000 g.p.d.
Water purchased from Norton Radstock U.D.C.	28,000 g.p.d.
Water purchased from Bristol Waterworks Company	258,000 g.p.d.
Water purchased from West Gloucester Water Company	- g.p.d.
Water obtained from Pitt Farm and Townsend Springs	187,500 g.p.d.
	<hr/>
	754,500 g.p.d.
	<hr/>

WATER SUPPLIED

In statutory area - All purposes	746,639 g.p.d.
Outside statutory area -	
Bulk supply to Bathavon R.D.C.	6,071 g.p.d.
Bulk supply to Waldegrave Estates	1,790 g.p.d.
	<hr/>
	754,500 g.p.d.
	<hr/>

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Your public sewers and 31 sewage disposal works have again been regularly maintained so far as this is possible with a mobile gang of three men. Your five main works at Clutton, Farmborough, Timsbury, Stanton Drew and Pensford received visits on alternative days but the smaller works could only be visited once weekly or fortnightly. The main works with one or two exceptions produced satisfactory effluents on sampling by the Bristol Avon River Board, but with few exceptions the smaller works continued to produce unsatisfactory effluents. It seems likely that more frequent maintenance and extension of some of the smaller works will become inevitable in the next few years. The contract again entered into for the emptying of the various septic tanks has again worked reasonably well, but it is the rule rather than the exception that the Contractor has to make use of sludge beds at the larger sewage works for the disposal of tanker contents from your smaller works. Experiences indicate too, that more frequent desludging of the smaller plants by tanker is likely to prove beneficial although this will inevitably increase the contract price.

It is pleasing to be able to report that by the end of the year the Paulton Sewerage Scheme, so long awaited, was 90% complete and expected to be in operation by February 1960. A private inquiry was held during September 1959 by an Engineering Inspector from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government into the proposed Bishop Sutton and Chew Magna Sewerage Scheme following which the Inspector toured the Parishes concerned. It is to be hoped that this Scheme will proceed without undue delay so that other schemes can be prepared and submitted to the Ministry for consideration.

Unfortunately, as has been the case with Paulton, Housing Schemes at Chilcompton and Timsbury are held up by the lack of adequate sewerage facilities, but your Consulting Engineers were by the end of the year preparing schemes to overcome the difficulties.

It is interesting to record that while all the parishes in the district had a piped supply of water at December 1959 only five have satisfactory public sewers and sewage disposal systems, whilst in two of these cases the villages concerned are only partially sewer'd. Some eight at least of the larger parishes are in urgent need of such systems.

BUILDING BYELAWS AND TOWN PLANNING

The number of plans received for consideration by the Council has again increased and from a practical aspect Building Byelaw inspections now take up a considerable part of your Inspectors' time.

During the year 28 new council houses were completed and 72 were in the course of erection. Whilst 53 private enterprise houses were completed and 20 were in the course of erection. The figures in relation to private enterprise houses show an increase of 22 extra completed over the 1958 figures and every indication is that this trend will continue. For the record your inspectors dealt with 400 plans during the year and carried out 687 inspections and visits in connection therewith, compared with 388 plans and 417 inspections during 1958.

TABLE OF PLANS RECEIVED AND DEALT WITH UNDER THE BYELAWS AND TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS AND ORDERS

	1958		1959	
	Plans	Bldgs.	Plans	Bldgs.
1. Council Houses (including Outline).	1	-	3	96
2. Private House applications	152	73	112	43
3. Alterations and additions to houses	84	88	103	108
4. Conversions to houses	6	6	9	7
5. Farm Buildings	20	22	27	26
6. Factories, including alterations and additions;	4	2	15	9
7. Temporary Buildings and Moveable Dwellings.	17	11	12	11
8. Licensed Premises, including alterations and additions.	1	1	3	3
9. Shops, including additions and alterations.	4	4	6	5
10. Petrol Stations and Garages	9	7	13	8
11. Local Authority (Bus Shelters, Sewers, Water Schemes, Schools, etc.)	10	9	5	5
12. Statutory Undertakings (Electricity Boards, etc.)	11	3	15	15
13. Private Garages	53	54	64	97
14. Advertisements	12	-	7	7
15. Public Halls and Buildings, alterations and additions.	4	2	6	4
Total 	388	282	400	444

SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION ACTS

1899 - 1923

(as amended)

The Council continue to administer the provisions of the above Acts in their District. During the year 20 surveys and valuations were carried out by your Officers. 13 advances were made, 1 refused and 6 withdrawn. The total sum advanced was £18,085, an increase of nearly £6,000 over 1958.

In addition 3 surveys and 3 advances were made for the total sum of £1,529 in respect of applications for loans for the repair of dwellinghouses.

HOUSING

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The coming into operation of the House Purchase & Housing Act 1959 and the introduction of Standard Grants together with the retention of the Discretionary Grant Scheme led to a considerable increase in the number of enquiries in relation to these grants.

Total figures for the year where grants were actually made were as follows:-

Standard Grant Applications	...	...	...	25
Dwellings involved: 27	Owner/Occupied	...	...	16
	Tenanted	...	...	11
Applications approved	...	...	...	23
Withdrawn or refused	...	...	...	2
Discretionary Grant Applications	...	...	...	26
Dwellings involved: 26	Owner/Occupied	...	...	22
	Tenanted	...	...	4
Applications approved	...	...	...	24
Withdrawn or refused	...	...	...	2

Providing that the house is reasonably fit for human habitation the scheme for standard grants is much more easily applied than that for discretionary grants in that very often the work can go ahead without the preparation of detailed plans and specifications, and the grants are paid on the production of a Builder's account.

The improvement works completed during the year were generally of a good standard and again reflected credit on those builders and architects concerned with the reconstruction of these old properties.

The financial details of these grants are as follows:-

(a) Standard Grants

No schemes had been completed by the 31st December so that no grants had actually been paid.

(b) Discretionary Grants

1.	Number of dwellings in respect of which Improvement Grants have been approved	...	...	26
2.	Number of such dwellings owner/occupied	...	...	22
3.	Number of such dwellings occupied by tenants	...	...	4
4.	Total of "approved expenditure" (average per dwelling of £757)	...	...	... £19,686
5.	Total of approved Grants	...	...	... £ 6,496
6.	Average Grant per dwelling	...	...	... £ 249
7.	Total expenditure to be incurred by owners in respect of repairs, improvements and professional fees	...	...	... £13,190
8.	Average expenditure to be incurred by owners (as compared with average grant of £249 per dwelling)	...	...	... £ 507

It should be noted that as is the case generally throughout the Country the number of applications for improvement grants from owner/occupiers greatly exceeds those from the owners of tenanted houses. This is unfortunate because it does mean that the raising of the standard of many houses in the district is likely to take many many years to accomplish.

HOUSING

HOUSING ACT 1957 - UNFIT HOUSES

No statutory action was taken during the year under Section 9 of the Housing Act to secure the repair of houses repairable at a reasonable cost.

Progress in the slum clearance programme to deal with houses not repairable at a reasonable expense again proceeded slowly, but the projected programmes at Farmborough and Paulton in hand at the end of the year, should in 1960 see a big step forward towards overcoming this problem.

Figures given below indicate, however, that when the total picture is examined the programme as planned in 1955 is somewhat ahead of schedule, mainly because many houses in clearance areas have been vacated without the tenants having been rehoused by the Council, and the whole slum clearance programme should, unless anything unforeseen occurs, be completed well ahead of the 15 years as was envisaged at that time.

Statistical information on the present situation in the district is as follows:-

1.	Total number of permanent dwellings in the district	5,867
2.	Total number of permanent dwellings owned by the Council (excluding 40 prefabs)	1,277
3.	Estimated number of houses as at August 1955 unfit for human habitation	583
4.	Approximate number of (3) above still occupied	354
5.	Approximate number of families in (4) above	366
6.	Approximate number of (4) above in confirmed clearance orders and still occupied	219
7.	Number demolished to date	45
8.	Number of houses made fit during the year	39
9.	Number of applications for Council Houses at 31.12.59 (subject to revision)	404

RODENT CONTROL AND VERMIN INFESTATION

There is nothing outstanding to report in the year's activities regarding Rodent Control, although the steady influx of complaints gave the Operator little time for a parish to parish survey. Infestations generally were, however, of minor proportions and satisfactory results have been achieved in routine treatment. The sewage works and refuse tips have again been regularly surveyed and treated and public sewers in five parishes were test baited and treated where this was found to be necessary. Quite a considerable part of the Operator's time during the summer and autumn was spent in the treatment of numerous private dwellinghouses in respect of fly infestations and in dealing with more than an average number of wasp nests. Although this latter job is not exactly within the province of the Public Health Department, nevertheless those people who were helped were very appreciative of the efforts made to assist them.

	(1) L.A.	(2) Dwelling houses.	(3) Business Premises	(4) Farms	Total of (1), (2) (3) & (4)
Number of properties inspected as a result of:-					
(a) Notifications	21	235	34	34	324
(b) Surveys	36	616	24	54	730
Number of Inspections					
	153	1,281	144	180	1,758
Number of properties found to be infested:					
Rats	Major	3	-	8	18
	Minor	37	263	32	41
Mice	Major	-	-	1	1
	Minor	2	38	7	1
				Total	451
No. of infested properties treated					
	31	168	28	26	253
Number of treatments					
	40	256	43	38	377
No. of clock controls					
		15 (72 premises)			

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES

Statutory Notices:	Served	...	...	...	2
	Abated	...	...	...	2
Informal Notices:	Served	...	...	...	102
	Abated	...	...	...	92
Total number of inspections in connection with the above during the year	...	...	...	...	366
Details of inspections as follows:-					
Houses, complaints and repair		...	...	...	89
Animals or fowls kept in such a state as to be a nuisance	...	...	...	...	16
Accumulation of filth or refuse		...	...	...	6
Ponds, ditches or watercourses		...	...	...	105
Defective dustbins or closet pans		...	...	...	4
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	6
House drainage complaints	...	...	...	...	140

INFECTIOUS DISEASE ENQUIRIES AND DISINFECTIONS

Investigations were made after cases of infectious diseases as notified in the Medical Officer of Health's Report, and disinfections were carried out where necessary.

Four cases of food poisoning were investigated and samples taken where necessary, but in no case was the cause or organism located.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The number of caravan sites remained at one for seasonal occupation only and 19 licences were in force for single moveable dwellings. 20 inspections of sites were made but no nuisances were reported.

Very few cases of unauthorised camping were reported, and generally speaking camping control within the area presents little or no problem.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The weekly refuse collection scheme carried out by contract with the British Transport Commission has proceeded satisfactorily during the year with very few complaints, and these generally resulting from vehicle breakdowns which were unavoidable.

A further sixteen litter baskets were erected within the district mainly at points frequented by holiday travellers. Unfortunately many of the baskets have had to be taken down and repaired or replaced due to unnecessary damage to them.

As envisaged during 1958 the refuse disposal tip at Temple Cloud was closed during the year, but the British Transport Commission have not yet carried out their promise to level and tidy up the area. The Council obtained Planning Permission for a new tip to be commenced on spare land on the sewage works site at Goosards Bridge, Paulton, and tipping commenced there during the autumn. Unfortunately, here again the methods adopted by the Transport Commission left much to be desired with the result that the new tip has been a source of nuisance from fire, and to a lesser extent from fly infestation. It is my opinion that the Council will themselves have to provide some assistance on the refuse tip in the way of labour and materials for covering if this new tip is to be reinstated according to the practice of controlled tipping as was first envisaged.

INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES

Our records indicate that premises within the district are made up according to the following table:-

(1)	Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	9
(2)	Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	18
(3)	Fish and Chip Shops	...	...	...	...	5
(4)	Milk (a) No. of Registered Distributors				...	11
	(b) No. of Registered Dairy Premises other than Dairy Farms	...	...	...	...	5
	(c) No. of Licensed Dealers in Designated Milk	...	...	...	...	17
(5)	Number of premises registered under Section 16 Food & Drug Act 1955	...	...	...	...	80
(6)	Shops selling food	...	...	...	...	94
(7)	Cafes and Guest Houses	...	...	...	...	17
(8)	Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	62
(9)	Shops selling Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	79

Some 47 visits were made by your Inspectors to various premises. Advice was given to the occupiers whenever necessary and informal notices served as the occasion demanded. There is still room for considerable improvement here and a regular and systematic inspection of such premises is necessary, but present commitments in the meat inspection and other fields do not allow this to be carried out.

Once again I have to report that no ice-cream is being manufactured in the district, although the number of premises licenced to sell this commodity increased by 6 to 79.

Four samples of milk were taken during the year and all were found to be satisfactory.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION

The number of licensed slaughterhouses is as in previous years.

Bishop Sutton	-	One (wholesale)
Chew Magna	-	Two (for own use only)
High Littleton	-	One (for own use only)
Norton Malreward	-	One (wholesale)
Temple Cloud	-	One (for own use only)
West Harptree	-	One (for own use only)

With the coming into operation of The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations 1958 together with the partial operation of the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations 1958 and the impending slaughterhouse reports required by the Slaughterhouses Reports Appointed Day Order 1959 your Inspectors spent considerable time in examining this legislation as applicable to the slaughterhouses within the district and later on in inspecting the slaughterhouses and furnishing all the occupiers with a complete list of the works which would be necessary to comply with the various regulations. Consultations were also held with the Veterinary Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture in order to make sure that any observations they had to make, particularly in respect of the Prevention of Cruelty Regulations were embodied in the reports sent to the various occupiers.

The number of animals slaughtered during the year was 23,599, a slight reduction over 1958. Over 99% of all the animals slaughtered for food within the district were inspected, and co-operation between the Inspectors and the Slaughterhouse occupiers has been generally good. Those animals uninspected were with the exception of eleven pigs all sheep or lambs, but I still feel that 100% inspection which is essential will not be accomplished until some control is made in regard to the slaughtering hours.

Attention is particularly drawn to the further marked decrease in the number of animals found to be infected with T.B. These figures reflect great credit on those responsible for the implementation of the Attested Herd Scheme. The reduction in the weight of carcase meat condemned further indicates the success of that scheme.

Carcasses and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during the year:-

	Cattle			Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
	Beasts	Heifers	Cows			
Number Killed	354	1893	3519	670	10457	6706
Number inspected	354	1893	3519	670	10093	6695
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:-						
Whole carcases condemned	2	5	89	30	134	41
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	80	532	1737	2	560	627
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	23.16%	28.37%	51.88%	4.77%	6.87%	9.97%
Tuberculosis only:-						
Whole carcases condemned	-	1	4	-	-	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	8	68	-	-	126
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	.56%	.47%	2.04%	-	-	1.88%
Cysticercosis:-						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	27	13	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	3	27	13	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Weight of meat condemned	24 tons 7 cwts. 91 lbs.			11 cwts 18.1bs	4 tons 4 cwts 41.1bs	2 tons 5 cwts 36.1bs

CANNED FOODS

The following canned foods were condemned during the year:-

19 lbs. 4 oz. Meat

89 lbs. 1 oz. Fruit and vegetables

FACTORIES ACT 1937

Number of factories in the District 67

Number of inspections carried out under the provisions of the above Act during the year was 9.

The statistical information is as follows:-

	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>
1. Factories in which Section 1,2,3,4, & 6 are enforced by the Local Authority	3	3
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A.	64	6

<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred by H.M.Inspector</u>
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Defects found:

Want of cleanliness - - -

Sanitary Conveniences
(b) unsuitable or defective 1 1 -

Outworkers:

Number of outworkers in August List - Section 110 (1) (c)

Wearing apparel (Making) 7

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM AND CARBIDE

On 31st December, 1959, the amount of petrol stored under licence within the district had decreased slightly to 121,300 gallons in 77 installations, as follows:-

36 Retail Filling Stations

41 Private Installations

The amount of carbide stored under licence had decreased to 11,000 lbs.

During the year your Public Health Inspectors attended two meetings at Fire Brigade Headquarters, Taunton, held to discuss ways and means of implementing the Home Office Model Code in respect of petroleum installations. These meetings resulted in this and many other authorities in the County adopting the County Council's standard recommendations for petroleum installations. These standard conditions will be implemented in this district from the 1st April, 1960.

Consequently a start was made during the year on the systematic inspection of all the licensed premises and a comprehensive report prepared in respect of each premise, in regard to construction, layout, particulars of tanks, electric and hand pumps, electrical fittings, distance from the highway, etc. The first reports available indicate that many of the older premises and their equipment will need considerable modification to comply with the new conditions.

Once again I would like to thank Dr. Brew for his support and advice, Mr. Burdge and his staff for their continued co-operation, and the members of the office and outside staff for their conscientious work throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. C. POWELL

